

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the section entitled “Abstract” by deleting the text on page 24 and replacing the deleted section with the following replacement section showing all changes relative to the previous version of the section:

ABSTRACT

An apparatus is disclosed for filtering data symbols (~~ES~~) for a decision based data processing system-(7). The apparatus includes a buffer store (~~13~~) for buffer-storing a sequence of n sequentially received data symbols (~~ES~~). The apparatus also includes an nth-order median filter (~~24~~) which calculates the minimum intervals (~~a_{min}~~) between the n buffer-stored data symbols and nominal data symbols (~~ES_{nominal}~~) and filters out that data symbol whose calculated minimum interval (~~a_{min}~~) has a mean value for the calculated minimum intervals.

~~Figure 5~~